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MEMORANDUM FOR: All Employees at Headquarters and in the [REDACTED] Field

SUBJECT: Political Activity

1. During this election year it is particularly important that all of us understand and appreciate the rules for Federal employees concerning political activity. These rules, which are based on the Hatch Act, as amended, apply to all employees. Attached to this memorandum is a new pamphlet (Federal Employee Facts No. 2) prepared by the Civil Service Commission. It is a very readable explanation of the subject and should provide you with the necessary general guidance.

2. Chapter 21-236, the Federal Personnel Manual, contains detailed information concerning the activities of Federal employees in state and local politics. Any member of the Agency interested in determining in detail the regulations governing political activities should carefully review this Chapter of the Federal Personnel Manual since certain of the more liberal provisions prevailing during the war years have been altered. Employees may call the Records and Services Division, Office of Personnel, extension 2144, for information on this subject.

3. General Cabell and I have consistently followed the practice of bending over backwards to avoid any impression of political activity which could be construed as possibly infringing the spirit of the Hatch Act and Civil Service Commission rules. This policy has also been followed in order to avoid any possible linking of the Agency's activities with political activity. I feel that all employees of the Agency must follow similar standards with respect to their political activities. I do urge all of you to vote in national and local elections for the candidate of your choice but beyond exercising this privilege, I desire that all employees avoid any political activities which would violate the spirit of the established Government principles or which would affect adversely the best interests of the Agency.

ALLEN W. DULLES

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